

Message Text

SECRET

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14

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W

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P R 121010Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY SANAA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2455

INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USUN 0047

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

UNINT CAIRO 0065

S E C R E T SANAA 2173

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: XX, PFOR, YE, SY

SUBJ: YARG FON MIN STRESSES NEED FOR USG-SYRIAN COMMUNICATIONS
CHANNEL

REF: SANAA A-36

1. WHEN I SAW HIM DURING HIS FEW HOURS STAY IN SANAA ON HIS RETURN FROM DAMASCAS AND RIYADH, DEPUTY PRIMIN/FONMIN NU'MAN CONFIRMED HE HAD DISCUSSED MIDDLE EAST SITUATION WITH SYRIAN PRESIDENT ASAD AND DEPUTY PRIMIN KHADDAM. BOTH HAD SHOWN SENSITIVITY OVER THE FACT THAT SYRIA SOMEWHAT LEFT OUT OF THE ACTION AND BIT DECISIONS AFFECTING FIRST CEASE-FIRE AND NOW PROSPECTIVE NEGOTIATIONS BASED ON 242. SYRIAN LEADERS HAD BEEN PLAINTIVE ON NEED FOR REGULAR COMMUNICATIONS CHANNEL WITH USG. NU'MAN SAID HE HOPED WE WOULD MOVE ON THIS. SYRIANS SOMEWHAT UNPREDICTABLE AND NOT ALWAYS CONSTRUCTIVE BUT THEY MORE LIKELY BE LATTER IF MADE TO FEEL THEY MATTERED AND WERE BEING KEPT IN PICTURE.

2. PRIOR TO NU'MAN'S RETURN WE HAD BEGUN TO HEAR THAT DIE MIGHT NOT BE IRREVOCABLY CAST ON HIS RESIGNATION AS FOREIGN

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MINISTER BECAUSE OF CONFLICTS WITH PRIME MINISTER HAJRI, DESPITE

EARLIER GENERAL ASSUMPTION (REF AIR) THAT HE WOULD BE LEAVING.
WHEN I ASKED NU'MAN ABOUT THIS, HE SAID MATTER STILL UP IN
THE AIR. HE COULD NOT ABIDE HAJRI'S STYLE OF GOVERNMENT BUT
NUMEROUS INTERMEDIARIES PRESSING THE TWO TO TRY TO ACCOMMODATE
THEIR DIFFERENCES. HE WOULD SEE AFTER RETURN FROM ADDIS ABABA
(SANAA 2154).
CRAWFORD

SECRET

NNN

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